

For immediate release:

HEADLINE: INDIANA CONSTITUTIONS REMOVED FROM STATEHOUSE FOR SCHEDULED RESTORATION

INDIANAPOLIS (June 3, 2011) – The original 1816 and 1851 Indiana State Constitutions have been temporarily removed from their display case in the Statehouse Rotunda for scheduled restoration. State Archivist Jim Corridan and State Archives conservators carefully removed the documents and transported them to the State Archives with assistance from the Indiana State Police.

“As two of the Indiana’s most essential historic documents, the 1816 and 1851 Constitutions will receive attention from state conservators,” said Corridan. “This is a standard procedure to ensure proper preservation of the Constitutions for years to come.”

The founding documents were replaced with two papers from Indiana’s territorial period. The first document is “A List of the Officers, Field and Staff, Belonging to the 3rd Regiment, Indiana Militia, Colonel James Dill, Commanding. Dated 5 April 1813.” The 3rd Regiment was based in Dearborn County. Two companies from the regiment were called into the service of the United States during the War of 1812. The second document is a “Manuscript Journal of the House of Representatives of the Indiana Territory, Second Session, Second General Assembly, September 26, 1808 to October 26, 1808.” Representative government in the Indiana Territory began in 1805 when the first session of the territorial House of Representatives convened at Vincennes. The original manuscript is housed in the Indiana State Archives.

The Constitutions will return to the Statehouse Rotunda on Statehood Day in mid-December of 2011 and remain on public display through the end of the 2012 legislative session.

Digital versions of the original [1816 Constitution](#) and [1851 Constitution](#) may be viewed through [Indiana Memory](#) – a gateway to Indiana’s unique history and cultural Heritage. The State Archives also provides an informational [Indiana’s Constitutional Index](#), which includes a historical background on the [Creation](#) of the original 1816 Constitution, an [Introduction to the Online Edition](#) of the Constitution by the Hon. Randall T. Shepard, Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, previous [restoration projects](#) and a [full text version of the 1816 Constitution](#).

About the Indiana State Archives

The Indiana State Archives collects records of historical value from all branches of Indiana state and local government, including governmental history, census and naturalization records for families, selected medical, military and criminal records, records of land ownership, maps, blueprints and photographs. Visit the archives.icpr.IN.gov for a detailed listing of these

resources, including links to online exhibits and electronic indices of select records, such as The [Indiana Digital Archives](#), which was named a [2010 Best State Website](#) by "Family Tree Magazine."

About the Indiana Commission on Public Records

Under Director and State Archivist Jim Corridan, the Indiana Commission on Public Records assists State and local governments in the cost-effective, efficient and secure management of governmental records, by providing services throughout the life cycle of records, including creation, use, storage, and disposition.

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